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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Ministers for Immigration Meet

LD1010223491 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] This evening at the Prime Ministry offices, Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki received the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ministers in charge of immigrant workers. They are Mohamed Salah Mantari, Algerian minister of social affairs; Ahmed Smaoui, Tunisian minister of social affairs; and Muhammad Matuq, Libyan secretary of the popular committee of vocational training. Present was Rafik Heddaoui, minister delegate at the prime minister's office in charge of the immigrant community abroad, and Mohamed Abdallah Ould Khourchid, Mauritanian ambassador to Morocco.

On this occasion the ministers presented the premier with a detailed review of the results of their meetings, which ended with a unified view on safeguarding the rights gained by the AMU community in Europe and a draft action plan harmonious with the developments in the European arena concerning the immigration question, a plan that would be in harmony with the demands of the AMU communities and the prospects of cooperation between the AMU and the EC. This is in readiness for the coming meetings between these two groups.

The premier noted the importance of the present position, which is considered a turning point in the relations between the EC and the AMU. He highlighted the importance of the immigration question in these relations, as well as the need to take unified and objective stands in tackling the problems raised and to make the European plan look at the immigration issues within the framework of a consistant and humanitarian policy.

He also affirmed some of the areas of concentration. They include links between the development program and scientific and technical research, so that there are benefits from the AMU qualified manpower which is active in this field in European organizations. Another area is to ensure the human dignity of these communities and to encourage them to organize their affairs and defend their rights within the framework of the law and the treaties that have been concluded with the countries in which they reside. [passage omitted]

Urge Protection of Workers in EC

LD1010222591 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Oct 91

[text] The meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ministers in charge of immigration affairs, which began its proceedings yesterday in implementation of the AMU leaders' directives at the Casablanca summit meeting last August, ended in Rabat today.

Following the meeting a communique was issued in which the Maghrebian ministers expressed their concern over the difficult situation facing the Maghrebian community residing in European countries that has been brought about by campaigns aimed at harming them. The communique reiterated that such a community is an integral and indivisible part of the Maghrebian group, which is fervidly attached to its cultural values and its Arab and Muslim identity.

The Maghrebian community's sojourn in Europe and its relations with European countries have an international legitimacy based upon UN documents and bilateral treaties. It was also emphasized that the development which the Maghrebian community has witnessed in its composition and the particularity of its relations with its countries of origin as well as with European countries, requires, within the framework of an eagerness to build balanced contractual relations between the two communities, the Maghrebian and the European ones, a charter which guarantees the Maghrebian community's rights and stipulates its duties. It should, furthermore, be based on the principle of equality of rights and treatment at all levels, in particular equality in the rights of free movement and residence, the right of family reunion, and the improvement in living, working, training and social security conditions, the communique added.

The communique stated that the joint interests of the Arab Maghreb and EC countries require the drawing up of a long-term comprehensive plan for joint development, aimed at guaranteeing a balanced development on the two sides of the Mediterranean for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

The Maghrebian ministers in charge of immigration have sent a report on the matter to the AMU foreign ministers.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Exchanges Letters With Soviets

LD1010194591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has exchanged important political letters with the Soviet leadership in relation to the current political situation and the movements and efforts being made to give impetus to the peace process which is being led by the Soviet Union and the United States. This came during the reception yesterday evening of Mr. Vladimir [name as heard], the Soviet Union's ambassador to Tunisia, by brother president Abu-'Ammar. They reviewed the important political resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council at its latest session, relating to the need to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East region.

It should be mentioned that a Palestinian delegation, headed by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud-'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and including the two brothers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and

Sulayman al-Najjab, had left Tunis yesterday for Moscow to hold discussions with the Soviet leadership, in the framework of the joint Palestinian-Soviet committee, and to coordinate attitudes and exchange views.

Reportedly To Meet Pankin 'Next Week'

JN1010195991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] A PLO delegation met in Moscow today with Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin. PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told our radio that discussions dealt with the assurances to be provided before the upcoming peace conference, as well as the question of Jewish settlements. He also said an agreement was reached to hold a meeting between the Soviet minister and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in one of the region's capitals next week. He announced that another meeting is expected to be held East Jerusalem between Pankin and a number of Palestinian figures.

'Ashrawi Discusses Peace Process, U.S. Stand

NC1010124791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0641 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Bir Zayt University professor and a member of the Palestinian delegation that met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, has said that the aim of the delegation's trip to meet Baker today, prior to his new tour of the region, is to clarify certain points and resolve outstanding issues concerning the memorandum of guarantees in light of the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions.

She pointed out that the previous meeting between Baker and the delegation in Amman showed that there are developments, supplements, and changes to the letter of guarantees, such as the recognition of the Palestinian people and their political rights. She said no acceptable formula has been reached concerning self-determination, but that work was continuing.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, 'Ashrawi noted that the recent PNC resolutions were bold and responsible and they proved the ability of the Palestinian people's representatives to adopt responsible historic resolutions.

Asked why the PLO has not named the Palestinian delegation, she asserted that supplying a list would be no problem and that that is an internal PLO issue. We do not wish the issue to turn into a question of names, she explained, saying what is important is to clarify the situation, the peace process, and the basis of conducting it.

She emphasized that there is no fresh U.S. pressure on the issue of Jerusalem representation.

Answering a question on the reasons behind Israeli pressure on Baker not to receive her and Faysal al-Husayni in Washington last week, 'Ashrawi said she does not expect the United States to conduct its policy according to Israel's demands. The U.S. Administration, she added, and only the United States, is responsible for deciding who it will receive and who it will not.

'Ashrawi said some progress has been made, but said it is not enough and that the U.S. stand could be developed. She added she would be optimistic if she were certain that the peace process would gain national rights for the Palestinians. But it is clear, she noted, that the peace process will not give us all we want. It is, she said, at least the beginning of the road to change. The U.S. stand is not rigid and could be developed considering the changing circumstances. It can be said, she pointed out, that we now can seek approaches that were closed to us in the past.

Hawatimah on Frontline Summit Before Conference

PM1010151991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 91 p 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Nayif Hawatimah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Rejected Passive Boycott; International Resolutions Are Basis of Palestinian Solution"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has emphasized in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is essential to convene the five-way summit of the Arab frontline states—which the PLO is calling for—before the U.S. Administration sends the invitations to attend the peace conference and before the subject of the Palestinian people's representation is settled.

Hawatimah pointed out that failure to convene that five-way summit would open the door to the possibilities of separate solutions instead of a comprehensive, balanced solution based on an Arab summit and UN resolutions.

In this context the Palestinian leader warned about the dangers of abandoning the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions adopted in Algiers recently and welcomed at both the international and Arab levels.

Hawatimah announced that since the conclusion of the PNC session the Palestinian leadership has been facing numerous pressures from the U.S. Administration, and some other international parties, to obtain its approval concerning the formation of a Jordanian delegation comprising Palestinian figures about whom Israel has no reservation. He said "that means the absence of any PLO role and a dilution of the Palestinian people's national demands, including the right to return to an independent Palestinian state including the four million Palestinians in the diaspora." Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the development of the DFLP's political stances before and since the PNC session, he said: "The political results the Council achieved are the common denominators among various tendencies inside the PLO. And

these political results are in line with the three points raised by the DFLP, namely: the need for the Palestinian people's representation; the foundations on the basis of which the peace conference will be convened; and the determination of the Executive Committee's steps in the stage ahead.

Hawatimah said that the PNC adopted the DFLP's view and issued sound resolutions which rejected a passive boycott and endorsed the principle of participating in accordance with bases that uphold the Palestinian people's national rights. Hawatimah also told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian leadership is displaying great flexibility in dealing with all proposals, but it will not abandon the UN resolutions, which uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He also said that "the PLO leadership believes that the key to the solution and peace is in its hands, because no Arab state can participate in the conference without Palestinian cover."

Egypt Said Obstructing Conference

TA1010153891 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 10 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Palestinian sources have affirmed that the recent contacts with Egyptian officials did not succeed in convincing them to participate in a five-way summit attended by the Arab states surrounding Israel. Moreover, Palestinian efforts to convene such a meeting on the foreign ministers level collided with the Egyptian position that favors holding such a meeting after Baker's visit, not before, as the PLO has requested. The Palestinian sources noted that the reason for this is to avoid annoying Israel and to depict Egypt as a neutral mediator, not as a partner of the other Arab states, particularly the PLO.

Algeria

Ghozali Denies Reports of Intention To Resign

LD1110080891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali has stated on a Radio Algiers program that he has never contemplated handing in his resignation, as press rumors suggested, affirming his commitment to organize free and fair legislative elections before the end of the year.

Concerning the three-month legal period during which electorates are invited to vote, the head of the government affirmed that such a period has been reduced in the proposed amendment awaiting ratification.

Replying to a question on the National People's Assembly's possible rejection of the proposed electoral bill, Ghozali asserted that he would ask the president to return the draft to the Assembly for a second reading. In case it is rejected a second time, Mr. Ghozali said such a rejection would create a legal and political problem. The head of government did not, however, lose hope that deputies will understand the situation and the country's higher interests.

Concerning Algerian-Tunisian relations within the framework of his recent visit to fraternal Tunisia, he asserted that bilateral relations are continuing. The so-called conflict between the two countries does not exist. There are only problems, like those arising from the practical implementation of the clauses of the border treaty.

That was a summary of the points from an interview given by Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali to Radio Algiers.

FLN to Perez de Cuellar: Lift Iraq 'Siege'

LD1010154691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front [FLN] yesterday sent a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, calling on him to bear his responsibilities and take a firm stand on the disgraceful situation that the Iraqi people are enduring as a result of the siege imposed on them.

Bank Loans To Aid Payment of Debts on Schedule

LD1110074491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Authoritative banking sources affirmed today that Algeria will not stop repaying its debts, as has been interpreted. The banking sources pointed out that on Wednesday Algeria obtained a $1.5 billion loan from a group of eight world banks to enable the country to repay its debts for 1991, 1992, and 1993 on schedule.

Algeria has to pay as much as possible of its foreign debts, which are estimated at $25 billion, during the aforementioned three years. Therefore, the loan will help reduce the burden of repayment of these debts.

Egypt

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Hold Private Session

NC1010145391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visited brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, at his place of residence in al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo at midday today. The two leaders held a private session of talks, during which they continued the discussions they began last night following Qadhdhafi's arrival in Egypt. Following one hour of private talks between the two leaders, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid joined them for further discussions.

Mubarak Congratulates 'Arafat on Reelection

NC0910220791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on his reelection as Palestinian president and PLO chairman. The following is the text of the cable:

It gives me pleasure to express to you and to the fraternal Palestinian people my heartfelt greetings and to wish you success in coping with the challenges obstructing your march toward peace and freedom. We are confident that the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council during its recent meeting will contribute to enhancing the positive and constructive Palestinian involvement in the peace efforts and pave the way for further development in protecting the lawful national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their natural right to self-determination.

May the Almighty guide you to success in serving your just cause and your struggling people.

AL-AHRAM Calls For 'Mutual Concessions'

NC1010130491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 10 Oct 91

[From the "Press review" program]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that indications are that the success of the peace conference will be contingent on mutual concessions by the participants, proceeding from the principle that peace requires sacrifice, resilience, courage, and compromise if it is to be just and honorable for all.

The paper says that Shamir's previous statements to the Israeli Army radio indicate his readiness to compromise

in negotiations. This means he is willing to give concessions as long as other parties are willing to do the same; he is willing to meet at a half-way point on any issue.

The paper asks: Why do we not make mutual concessions on the following issues now: the announcement of a halt in building settlements in return for announcing a halt to the Arab boycott of Israel, a withdraw from the occupied territories in return for revoking the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, and releasing Arab detainees in Israel in return for obtaining information on the fate of the five missing Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon, which would lead to the release of all foreign hostages held in Lebanon. This, the paper notes, would create an international climate favorable to the peace process.

The paper concludes by asking: If holding a peace conference needs courageous stands during negotiations, why do the parties concerned not begin to awaken their courage now?

Paper Denounces Israeli Reconnaissance Flights

NC1110083291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0717 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—In a commentary entitled "For Whose Sake Is the Circle of Aggression Expanding?" the newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces Israeli warplanes' reconnaissance flights over neighboring Arab states. The paper described the matter as the latest in Shamir's designs to deal a fatal blow to the peace process that Washington, Moscow, Cairo, and other Arab capitals are endeavoring to promote with a view to spreading peace in the Middle East by reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue and ending the occupation of the Arab territories.

The paper emphasizes that the international community's silence over Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and its acts of aggression against south Lebanese inhabitants encourages Tel Aviv to carry out acts of aggression against other Arab states without fearing any international backlash. The paper notes that this is a serious trend that could trigger explosions in the region more serious than what happened in the gulf.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says that every day Yitzhaq Shamir gives international public opinion new evidence that his continued stay in power in Israel, with a mentality that takes humanity back to the law of the jungle, means the powder keg that has characterized the Middle East region for so long remains a threat. This powder keg could explode at any moment and if it does, those in charge of the world's security and safety will find only themselves to blame.

U.S. Military Town in Desert 'Grotesque' Tragedy

NC1110005491 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Oct 91 p 1

[By Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[Text] AL-SHA'B reveals one of the most grotesque tragedies that has befallen Egypt, namely in the heart of Bani Suwayf desert. The giant U.S. company "General Dynamics" is constructing a complete military town to accomodate and cater to U.S. military personnel. The town is being constructed in a way to enable many personnel to reside for long years to come.

The U.S. construction company has built its headquarters on 20 feddans in the desert. A number of Egyptians are employed in the workshops, which are building luxurious houses, lecture halls, complete sport centers, tennis courts, and swimming pools.

The company has adopted stringent security measures and installed communications system and explosives detection equipment. There are well over 60 minivans and pickups equipped with the most modern communication and radar devices. There is also a gas station on the site. First class roads have also been constructed.

U.S. male and female experts are residing in a small town next to the U.S. construction company site until the big town is completed. The small town has walls and fortified doors. Luxury houses have been built and furnished with modern furniture. There is also a room-sized refrigerator containing all kinds of food and drinks. The luxury houses are surrounded with sport centers and a huge swimming pool. Half-naked women are usually seen around the pools. They are seen making indecent gestures while walking in town.

French-Kuwaiti Security Agreement Analyzed

NC1010200191 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] MISR AL-FATAH has learned from high-ranking Arab diplomatic sources that the Kuwaiti-French security agreement contains several important clauses, including the following:

—France will dispatch French military equipment and troops to the State of Kuwait for training and staging joint maneuvers with the Kuwaiti troops. Kuwait will accommodate the French troops, as well as pay for all other expenses involved;

—France will supply Kuwait with sophisticated military equipment in accordance with a new Kuwaiti-French agreement—to be signed within the next three months—which determines the Kuwaiti need for French military products;

—France undertakes to defend Kuwaiti security with whatever troops and equipment it sees fit should Kuwait request French intervention to confront any security threats. Kuwait agrees to set up a standing French-Kuwaiti military committee to tackle any security developments and study the existing security situation; and,

—The Kuwaiti-French agreement applies not only to situations calling for confronting foreign threats, but

also to any domestic disturbances the Kuwaiti Government might encounter. Should internal disturbances threaten the stability and legitimacy of the ruling family, France will have the right to intervene upon the request of the Kuwaiti Government.

Libya

Attempt To Purchase Nuclear Technology Denied

LD1010132291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Commentary by JANA's international affairs editor]

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Oct (JANA)—Abid Hussain, Indian ambassador to the United States, stated that more than 10 years ago Libya tried to purchase nuclear technology from India, but his country refused. This was relayed by Voice of America radio. JANA's international affairs editor comments on that by saying:

First, the Great Jamahiriyah has repeated again and again that it is against the manufacture and use of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction. The Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed this in all of its legal documents, particularly in the Great Human Rights Green Document.

Second, the statements of the Indian ambassador are nothing more than irresponsible insinuations aimed at damaging the strong and fruitful relations between India and the Great Jamahiriyah. If we take into consideration the extremely healthy status of the Libyan Arab-Indian relations and the friendship of the two countries, then this statement cannot be anything more than suspicious words, which could have been inspired by non-Indian quarters.

We again stress our intention to strengthen the historic cooperation and friendship relations which were, and still are, a model for the relations which serve peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the peoples and which are removed from deceit and imposing hegemony.

Request for Better Ties With U.S. Renewed

LD1110104491 London KUNA in Arabic 0947 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] United Nations, 11 Oct (KUNA)—Libya has renewed its request to resume normal relations with the United States. This came in a statement distributed by Libya's permanent mission to the United Nations yesterday. Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's secretary of external liaison and international cooperation, addressed the UN General Assembly session, calling for turning a new leaf in dialogue with the United States on the basis of justice, logic, and rationalism. Al-Bishari said that he hopes that the U.S. Administration will engage in dialogue and solve the existing disagreements using peaceful means based on dialogue, cooperation, and friendship between the two sides.

Mauritania

Seventh Political Party Legalized

AB0810183391 Paris AFP in French 1800 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 [as received] Oct (AFP)—Today the Mauritanian interior minister legalized a new political party, the Progressive People's Party (APP). Headed by journalist Mr. Taleb Ould Jiddou, the APP is the seventh party to be legalized by the Mauritanian authorities.

Opposition Party Demands Electoral Code Revision

AB1110105391 Paris AFP in French 1948 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 9 Oct (AFP)—An opposition party, the Rally for Democracy and Unity [RDU], sent an open letter yesterday to the Mauritanian head of state, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, demanding the revision of the Mauritanian electoral code promulgated on 7 October, which it considers "unrealistic."

At a news conference in Nouakchott, RDU leader Ahmed Ould Sidy Baba said his party, "in association with all political parties," was demanding the revision of the electoral code to enable it to respond to the "realities of the country."

He, notably, deemed "unrealistic" the fact that every presidential candidate should obtain the signature of 30 mayors or 400 municipal counselors while the country has only 2 million inhabitants. He added that out of the 208 mayors in the country, 200 belong to the Mauritanian head of state's Republican Socialist and Democratic Party.

According to Mr. Baba, the establishment of electoral constituencies based on "departments" [moukabat], and the sharing of seats "will establish the rule of tribalism and regionalism" which "we warn" against.

Ould Sidy Baba added that his party also demands the holding of fresh municipal elections in Mauritania "as early as possible." "If the current electoral code, which is aimed at limiting the participation of the parties in the elections, is not revised, it will make people more frustrated and create the risk of an upheaval in Mauritania, which the country has so far succeeded in avoiding," he concluded.

Another major opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces, has already denounced the new Mauritanian electoral code.

New Party Newspaper Hits Newsstands

AB1010131091 Paris AFP in French 2026 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 8 Oct (AFP)—The first issue of the weekly AL JOUMHOURIA [THE REPUBLIC], the first

political party paper published by the Democratic and Social Republican Party [PRDS], was put on sale in Nouakchott this week. This weekly, which sells for 60 ouguiyas [about 250 CFA francs] has eight pages in Arabic and four in French. No information is available on the number of issues printed.

In his editorial, Sid'Ahmed Ould Dey, a former minister under President Mokhtar Ould Daddah and the paper's director, said that AL JOUMHOURIA is not the current government's paper, and that the PRDS is not the government's party.

In an interview, PRDS leader Ould Babah referred, however, to the "achievements of 12 December 1984," when Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya came to power following a military coup. The PRDS is accused by the opposition of being the "president's party," and of benefiting from "state means" for its activities.

Tunisia

New Defense Minister in Government Reshuffle

LD1010182391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali met with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui at Carthage Palace this morning. Following the audience, Hamed Karoui made the following statement:

His excellency the president of the Republic has decided to carry out a partial government reshuffle by appointing the following gentlemen:

1) Abdallah Kallel: minister of state and minister of the interior.
2) Abdelaziz Ben Dhia: minister of national defense.
3) Slah Jebali: minister of the environment and land development.
4) Monji Bousnina: minister of culture.
5) Slaheddine Cherif: secretary of state to the prime minister in charge of adminstrative reform and civil service.
6) Sadok Sayala: secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of African affairs.
7) Monji Safra: secretary of state to the minister of national economy in charge of trade.
8) Hatem Ben Othman: secretary of state to the minister of education and sciences.

Messrs. Habib Boulares [former defense minister] and Moncer Rouissi [former culture, information minister] will be called on to carry out other duties.

Three Ennahda Members Executed by Hanging

LD1010133991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] In Tunis, an official source today announced the execution by hanging of five Tunisians, three of whom belong to the banned Islamic Ennahda Movement.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Bal'awi

LD1010221591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia received today at the Ministry Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis. During this meeting, which comes within the context of consultation between the Tunisian Government and the PLO, they reviewed the phases covered by the peace march in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia also received at the Ministry Mr. John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador to Tunis. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and also made it possible to survey international issues of common interest.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Germany

LD1010103791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Benyahia and Karl Heinz Kunzmann, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, today signed a financial cooperation agreement for 45 million German marks, equivalent to approximately 25 million Tunisian dinars, to be used for financing economic and social development projects in Tunisia.

The minister expressed his satisfaction at the fact that Federal Germany is continuing to adhere to its financial obligations for 1991 through this new contribution. He especially expressed his gratitude for the increase in German aid to Tunisia that will not be repaid, which represents 70 percent of the total amount.

The minister gave prominence to the usefulness of German-Tunisian cooperation and its exemplary character, pointing to its continuous development and expressing his hope that this cooperation will continue to grow stronger and more diversified. He also expressed the hope that the forthcoming governmental German-Tunisian negotiations will be crowned with the setting up of a fund to help investment be enjoyed by the private sector, by way of furnishing loans and studying consultative activities, and [word indistinct] a fund to combat industrial pollution.

Kuwait Renews Contracts for Health Workers

LD1110072991 London KUNA in Arabic 1227 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tunis, 9 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Fawzan announced here today that the contracts of the Tunisian technical officials working at the Kuwaiti Health Ministry have been renewed.

He informed KUNA that all the Tunisian employees who remained in Kuwait and worked in the health installations before the unjust Iraqi occupation have now

had their contracts renewed. They will receive the same salaries and advantages as previously.

He pointed out that the State of Kuwait, despite what it suffered and is still suffering from perfidy and aggression on the part of the Iraqi regime and its forces, which robbed and pillaged the potential and wealth of the Kuwaiti people, "has not expelled anyone, and those who left Kuwait have had their rights preserved," thereby denying the rumors circulated by the media hostile to Kuwait.

He concluded his statement to KUNA by saying that the importing of new Tunisian technical labor will be studied after reforming and rebuilding the health installations that the spiteful Iraqi invasion destroyed. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Meets Saudi Finance Minister

LD1110102291 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, Oct 10 (SPA)—Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister, received here last night Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy. During the meeting, the Bahraini premier highlighted the depth of the fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Bahrain. He expressed confidence that the bilateral relations would witness further strength particularly in economic, financial, and commercial fields.

Aba-al-Khayl is here for a symposium of future of banking and investment activities in the Arab Gulf region during 1990's. He thanked Bahrain for hosting the important meeting. Aba-al-Khayl said his talks with the Bahraini leaders dealt with ways to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in economic, financial, and banking fields in view of the strong economic and banking position in the region.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim Abd-al-Karim, the Bahraini minister of finance and economy, Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, the Saudi ambassador to Bahrain and many officials. Later, Minister Aba-al-Khayl left here for the Kingdom.

Addressing the symposium earlier on Wednesday, Aba-al-Khayl urged the Gulf banks to increase their financial contribution to the future economic development, particularly in the fields of oil industry and relevant activities.

Aba-al-Khayl emphasized that the Gulf banking establishments have successfully managed to overcome a number of major crisis during the last few years including the decrease of oil revenue, huge appropriations for covering bad credits and expenditures of war during 1990. He attributed the success to the close cooperation between the national sectors and governments of the Arab Gulf states. Aba-al-Khayl underscored the important role to be undertaken by the banking sector for the success of economic objectives planned by the GCC's member states for the 1990's.

Kuwait

Al-Salim Confers With UNIKOM Official

LD1010144191 London KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, conferred here today at his office with General Guenther Greindl, commander of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). A Foreign Ministry official told KUNA that Gen. Greindl reviewed with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim "the duties of UNIKOM on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, particularly since the UN extended the mission of these forces for a further six months." Gen. Greindl praised the close cooperation with Kuwait in the field of facilitating the mission of UNIKOM for accomplishing the aims specified by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Plane Laden With Aid Leaves for USSR

JN1010172291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Oct (WAKH)—A huge cargo plane laden with the first shipment of aid supplies to the Soviet people took off from Abu Dhabi International Airport this morning.

'Ali Jum'ah, assistant to the director of the Abu Dhabi Purchase Department, stated that the plane is laden with 117 tonnes of food supplies to assist the goverment and people of the Soviet Union.

Dahi al-Suwyadi, the administrative and financial affairs director of the department, said that another plane loaded with similar supplies today will leave Abu Dhabi tomorrow morning as part of the airlift ordered by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and which is made up of approximately seven planes which will successively leave for Moscow and Leningrad [place name as received].

Second Plane Leaves 11 Oct

JN1110100891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Oct (WAKH)—A giant cargo plane laden with the second shipment of aid supplies ordered by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to assist the Government and people of the Soviet Union, took off from here today. Dahi al-Suwaydi, director of financial and administrative affairs for the Abu Dhabi Purchase Department, which is in charge of preparations for this airlift, said that the second cargo plane heading for Moscow is carrying 115 tonnes of food and medical supplies.

The first plane took off for Moscow yesterday. The third plane is scheduled to take off on Sunday with more aid supplies.

Production of H-Bomb Categorically Denied

JN1010185591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1839 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—The deputy director of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency has categorically denied the claims of Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that Iraq was working to produce a hydrogen bomb.

The deputy director told INA today that the documents on which Blix had based his claims were supplied by the Iraqi authorities to the international teams, and that these documents could have been withdrawn when they were inventoried had there been an intention to conceal any information.

The agency's deputy director said he was surprised that China should have made the claim of the existence of a program to produce plutonium. It is is an exaggerated allegation with no basis in reality, since it is a fundamental principle of scientific, practical, and systematic work that a resercher must start with theoretical and laboratory studies. Even if these studies should prove successful, he added, it is neither necessary nor simple for these studies to be useful for them to develop into a productive program. We have numerous such studies which, at best, may be described as academic studies giving good scientific results but not useful for a production program.

The sixth international team has received numerous reports of this kind, and Iraqi researchers have in the past published many findings of their research in the course of scientific work.

Iraq has secured extensive opportunities for its scientists to conduct research and studies with the aim of building a firm scientific foundation for the future. But it has not set any limits or ceiling for the research conducted by its children in the file of scientific research. But this is not the same as claiming the existence of a program to produce plutonium, since such a claim has no basis in truth.

The deputy director of the agency emphasized that no program for the production of plutonium program exists—not even on the smallest scale, enough to produce the smallest H-bomb.

Exaggerating the activity of scientific research in Iraq is a premeditated affair aimed at tarnishing the name of Iraq and part of a campaign of political blackmail and misinformation calculated to create justifications for aggression against Iraq and to keep the economic blockade on the Iraqi people.

Baghdad Conference Begins First Session

JN1010175591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—The first working session of the third Arab popular forces conference began in Baghdad this evening. The conference, convening under the slogan "Lift the Blockade Imposed Against Iraq," opened this morning.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the conference's higher preparatory committee, delivered a speech. At the outset, he welcomed representatives of Arab popular forces to Baghdad, the steadfast and civilized city.

He noted that the conference's higher secretariat, which emanated from the Sanaa conference, held a series of meetings in the past days, during which it studied reports, memoranda, and working papers by some brotherly delegations concerning the two pivots of the conference: Lifting the blockade on Iraq and supporting the Palestinian cause.

He pointed out that the higher secretariat had discussed the organizational and leadership structure that will emerge from the conference to ensure that the decisions and recommendations made by the conference will be followed up on. He added that the secretariat also agreed that it will be a party-like body that will oversee the working sessions of the conference. People representing brotherly Arab countries, parties, and unions will cochair the sessions and represent the presidential body of the conference.

The conference's first working session is chaired by 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, while the presidential body is composed of Kamal Ahmad, leader of the Nasirite Party in Egypt; Mohamed Sid Ould 'Abdallah, representative of the agencies in charge of mass education in Mauritania; Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, representative of the Progressive Socialist Assembly in Tunisia; 'Azmi al-Khawajah, first secretary of the Popular Unity Party in Jordan; Muhammad Ziyadah Hamud, adviser to the Political Bureau of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan; Muta' al-Safadi, Syrian intellectual and writer; Ahmad al-Khurasi, representative of the National Union of Popular For es in Morocco; Ilyas al-Farzali from Lebanon; 'Umar Muhammad al-Khurazi, representative of the General Secretariat of the Libyan Arab People's Congress; and Ilyas Khuri, representative of the Geneva-based Arab Bar Association.

Ramadan Gives Opening Speech

JN.010141291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, this morning opened the third conference of the Arab popular forces under the slogan "Lift the Blockade Imposed Against Iraq."

Mr. Ramadan delivered a speech in which he said: Imposing trusteeship on Iraq, stealing Iraq's wealth,

interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, and adopting constant unjust resolutions against Iraq are aggressive, illegal, and unfair acts. Just as much, they daily disclose the objectives of the U.S. conspiracy against Iraq and expose U.S. allegations concerning human rights, democracy, and international legitimacy.

He stressed that the old as well as new colonialists know the Arabs' cultural weight, human resources, enlightened minds, abundant wealth, glorious history, immortal human culture, and distinguished geographic location. These colonialists, therefore, have always attacked the Arab nation, conspired against its unity and order, and tried to harm its culture and heritage, sometimes in the Arab east, and other times in the Arab Maghreb.

Mr. Ramadan added that as part of this hostile attitude, those forces colonialized many Arab countries to steal their oil and wealth, and occupied dear spots of the Arab land either by military force or colonialism, as happened in dear Palestine. They also dominated several countries, moving their agent rulers as they please with a view toward usurping the Arabs' free will and looting their wealth.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan discussed the dimensions of the 30-nation aggression on Iraq and the its hidden goals. The enemies of the Arabs and humanity under the leadership of the United States wanted to harm Iraq before the events of 2 August 1990 because this country exceeded the red lines determined by the colonialists as regards the progress and rise of nations. They were enraged by the nationalization of Iraqi oil in 1972 and angered by the sucees of the campaign to eradicate illiteracy and have free education. They were exhausted by the strength of national unity—land and soil—through autonomy in Iraq's Kurdistan. They were worried about scientific progress, civilian and military industrialization, and the nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. They were horrified at the glorious victory over Iran, whom they aided throughout the eight years with all the weapons, expertise, and foreign and Zionist intelligence at their disposal to realize their evil goal of weakening Iraq. They were especially infuriated by this new person who emerged once again in the land of the Arabs armed with all the divine messages and good values that were born and raised in the land of Arabs. God, praised be his name, thwarted their evil intentions and they faced a great disappointment.

The vice president spoke about the role of Kuwait's rulers in implementing that scheme. He said: This scheme consisted of flooding the world's oil market with excess production to drop the prices and deliberately harm Iraq. Iraq had begun to make up for the growth and construction chances it lost during the war. The objective was to ruin Iraq's oil returns to impoverish it, starve its people, and undermine its development program. Despite the explanations given by leader President Saddam Husayn, God protect him, regarding the dangers of the Kuwaiti and the United Arab Emirates oil policy, during the Arab summit which convened in Baghdad end of May 1990, and despite the letters and envoys sent afterward to the rulers of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, the latter countries insisted on implementing a policy contrary to that set by the OPEC resolutions regarding production and pricing. The United States escalated its aggressive and premeditated policies against Iraq. It relied on its allies in Europe, especially France and Britain, as well as its slaves in the region, the likes of the rulers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria, to implement the various phases entrusted to them and give the semblance of legitimacy for the United States to strike Iraq after the theater piece of the so-called the Cairo summit on 10 August 1990.

Taha Yasin Ramadan criticized the hostile U.S. stand vis-a-vis Iraq. He asked: By what right does the U.S. President announce his desire to continue the blockade until the regime is changed? He said that it is known that the United States is the one that establishes and supports the worst regimes in the world and the regimes that most disregard human rights.

Ramadan added: Before speaking about human rights in any country, Bush should speak about human rights in his own country, about the coercion of intellectuals, racial discrimination against the colored, the process of obliterating the identity of the red Indians, and undermining the human mind, mental powers, and education with a planned media and a distorted culture prepared by world Zionism.

He said: Bush, who placed himself as the advocate of human rights, never spoke—even in his recent speech at the UN General Assembly—about the most urgent matters of human conscience; namely, the issue of the displaced people of Palestine, who are deprived of their rights. He even tried to annul racism as a feature of Zionism, which is more dangerous to human rights than the fascist trends, particularly human right to his land and to freedom.

Ramadan said: Iraq's people do not fear democracy; it is Iraq's course in political life. It is not the democracy of a minority at the expense of majority, neither it is the hybrid [muhajannah] democracy of the West, which hides behind it leaders of military coups d'etat and representatives of opportunist and parasitic factions, and imperialist plundering.

The vice president affirmed that the United States and its allies are trying to find a way out of their immoral and inhuman policies which are being revealed clearly before world public opinion. Demands are being stepped up publicly for the siege to be lifted from the Iraqi people by considering the siege one of the crimes of annihilation being committed against humanity. The curse of history will chase whoever committed it, contributed to it, and remained quiet about it. In addition, it is an aggression on a UN member state which has implemented the resolutions of the Security Council.

He also discussed the role of the United States in formulating the Security Council resolutions on Iraq. He said: The vagueness and urgency with which the successive Security Council resolutions were formulated by the U.S., French, and British Governments target prolonging the economic siege and keeping 18 million people hostage and over whom these oppressive forces are haggling. But the sons of Iraq, who remained steadfast and resisted the unjust U.S. aggressive resolutions issued by the Security Council, will also resist all new resolutions through which the enemies want to impose hegemony and tutelage on Iraq, rob it of its resources, and meddle in its internal affairs. Inasmuch as the repeated issuance of unjust resolutions is a violation, illegality, injustice, and aggression, it is revealing day by day the targets of the U.S. conspiracy against Iraq and exposing its allegations about human rights, democracy, and international legitimacy. What kind of human rights and democracy are these if it is their objective to deprive the sick of medicine and kill children by starvation?

The great contest of the Mother of Battles exposed the double standards of those who call for human rights and those who call for the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The 30-nation alliance also abandoned all its false promises to solve what is called the Middle East crisis in the same way the "Gulf crisis" was solved.

Ramadan said the battle with the enemy is not over yet; it is continuing in different forms. The Arab masses are becoming increasingly aware of the magnitude of the conspiracy, and they will grow stronger and more cohesive in order to foil the agressive conspiracy.

Reconstruction, he said, is our reaction to the imperialist-Zionist aggression, which damaged only the material part of our high edifice.

He said the convening of the conference in Baghdad, at this extremely sensitive juncture, will be a slap in the face of the enemies. It is the most eloquent statement against the allies, the agents, and the traitors.

Ramadan said the common values of jihad, martyrdom, and sacrifice linking Baghdad and Jerusalem are very strong. The Mother of Battles provided an honorable model of how to defend the land and honor, and how to safeguard rights and the higher pan-Arab interests.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives PFLP's Deputy Chief

JN1010200391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1909 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this evening received Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and his delegation.

They talked about the latest Arab developments, with special reference to the Palestinian cause and anti-Iraqi plots.

They also stressed the need for Arab popular forces to join hands, deepen their unity, and develop their tactics to support the Iraqi and Palestinian people in facing siege and conspiracy.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa is heading the PFLP's delegation to the third popular Arab conference, which got under way today.

RCC Decree Explains Visa Requirements

JN1010173991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has passed a decree whereby Arabs and aliens wishing to visit Iraqi must fulfill the entry visa requirement. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC, decision No. 63, dated 27 Rab'i Awwal, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 5 October 1991.

Decision: Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:
1. The entry visa requirement for Arabs and aliens shall be reintroduced.
2. Arabs and aliens whose countries are bound with Iraq by agreements of reciprocity shall be exempt.
3. Any clause contravening the provisions of this decision shall be rendered invalid.
4. RCC decision No. 58, dated 6 March 1991 is rescinded.
5. This decison is to be published in the Official Gazette and takes effect on the date of issue. [passage omitted repeating text of decision No. 58]

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Some Requirements Abolished

NC1010194591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The defeated tyrant's regime has decided to abolish visa requirements for the Jordanians, Yemenis, and Yugoslavs wishing to enter Iraq.

Jordanian Visa Ruling Explained

JN1010163291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Oct 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Mr. Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador to Jordan, has announced that Iraq's decision to allow Jordanians to enter Iraq without visas came after the stabilization of the security situation in Iraq, during which such a step had to be taken.

In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, the ambassador pointed out that this decision also includes Yemeni and Sudanese citizens, since the two fraternal states, Yemen and Sudan, treat Iraqi citizens likewise and do not demand a visa upon entry into their country.

He said the Jordanian people and government showed great cooperation with Iraq when it made them obtain visas and provided all the help needed to implement this decision which was taken for security reasons.

He added that no matter what the Iraqi citizens give Jordan—people, government and king—it is a part of the loyalty of this people's true stand with the Iraqi people during their crisis.

The ambassador added that since yesterday morning, Jordanian citizens started entering Iraq without visas as was previously the case. He affirmed that any citizen visiting Iraq is visiting his second home. He praised the strong relations between the Iraqi and Jordanian people.

British 'Convict' Hopes To Join Family 'Soon'

JN1010150291 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 10 INA—After six years in prison, Ian Richter, the British convict who is spending a life sentence in Iraq, seems to be enjoying high morale and hopes to join his family soon.

Richter, a British businessman, was caught red-handed in a bribery crime in 1986 and was sentenced to life imprisonment by an Iraqi court. Richter is now being portrayed by Western media as a "hostage" more than a criminal convict.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper today quoted Ricther as saying "The treatment has been exceptionally well. In fact, I have no difficulties with Iraqis. I never had throughout the five years of work at the Karkh water treatment project. I appreciated the hospitality I got at my work from the fine engineers I worked with. I have no dislike or hatred against Iraqis," he said.

Richter described the days during the American-led aggression against Iraq as difficult. "One had to have time to get used to such a thing, especially when you think you are not the only one involved."

However, he said, "People here treated me remarkably well."

"I feel OK but a little unsettled because of the hopes and expectations lately. I hope I could leave and reunite with my family, especially the kids," concluded Richter who has seen his wife twice over the past three months.

Opposition Group Says Regime Redeploying in South

NC1010184991 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, Oct 10 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government has effected an Army redeployment in the south of the country in efforts to seize weapons held by rebels there, an Iraqi opposition group said Thursday.

Abu-Sadiq, spokesman for the Organisation of the Islamic Action, told AFP here that the Iraqi Army deployed tanks and heavy artillery on the Karbala'-al-Najaf highway in southern Iraq. He charged that a week ago Iraqi tanks opened fire on the al-Ahwar [marshland] region in southern Iraq where several thousand Shiites sought refuge after a failed bid in March to topple the Baghdad government.

He did not mention any casualties.

"The regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has been trying to seize the weapons still in the hands of the population and it is using the Army for that purpose," Abu-Sadiq said.

He called for international assistance to residents in southern Iraq.

Kurdish Sources Say Cease-Fire Holding

NC1010151691 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct 10 (AFP) - Kurdish civilians who fled heavy fighting between Iraqi forces and Kurdish guerrillas earlier this week are returning to their homes in northern Iraq as government troops withdraw to barracks, a Kurdish spokesman said here Thursday.

Shawkat Bamarni of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) told AFP a ceasefire worked out Tuesday was holding. "People who fled from Kifri, Klar and al-Sulaymaniyah are going home and Iraqi soldiers are returning to their barracks," he said.

In Damascus a DPK representative described the situation in northern Iraq as "calm."

The clashes erupted Saturday around Kifri and Klar and were reported to have sent thousands of Kurdish civilians fleeing toward the Iranian border for safety.

The truce was arranged by a delegation from the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, a coalition of eight rebel movements, and Iraqi officials led by Defense Minister Husayn Kamal Hasan. Representatives of the Kurdistan Front were headed by DPK chief Mas'ud Barzani. Other Kurdish opposition sources have reported that the situation in northeastern Iraq remained "very tense and explosive."

In Geneva the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said its delegates on the ground had evacuated

dozens of people wounded in the fighting to the al-Sulaymaniyah hospital, which on Tuesday received 2.5 tonnes of ICRC medical supplies.

A spokesman for another Kurdish group, the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan under Jalal Talabani, told AFP in Damascus Thursday that talks on Kurdish autonomy would resume after the return of Talabani and a Front delegation. Talabani is currently outside Kurdistan and has already held talks with officials in London and Washington.

The Front began negotiations with the Iraqi Government last April on an autonomy accord after Iraqi troops crushed a rebellion by Kurdish guerrillas.

Kurdish Leader Reports Talks Failure

NC1110114291 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, Oct 11 (AFP)—The post-Gulf war negotiations between Kurdish rebels and the Iraqi Government have failed and the opposition is planning a congress in Saudi Arabia, a Kurdish rebel leader said Friday.

"Negotiations on autonomy for Kurdistan have ended in failure because of the intransigence of the dictators in power and Baghdad's rejection of Kurdish legitimate rights," Jalal Talabani told the Bahrain newspaper Akhbar Al-Khaleej.

"The principle of negotiations is not ruled out, but I believe that the chances of reaching positive results are almost nil," the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan was quoted as saying.

Since the start of talks in April after an aborted Kurdish uprising that followed Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war, Talabani has been pessimistic over the prospects for an accord on autonomy for the four million Kurds in northern Iraq.

Baghdad has been highly critical of Talabani, accusing him of working for foreign interests, and contrasted his position with the more positive stand taken by another rebel leader, Massoud Barzani.

The two sides have been in dispute over whether the northern oil city of Karkuk should be incorporated into an autonomous region and over Kurdish demands for democratic reforms.

Despite renewed fighting last weekend, a senior Iraqi official said Wednesday that Baghdad was determined to secure a "definitive" agreement with the Kurds and restore stability in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Talabani said the opposition, including the Shiites of southern Iraq, was planning a congress in the Saudi city of al-Ta'if. "We support the principle of holding such a congress on condition that all strands of the opposition take part," he said.

Bombing Victims' Injuries Said Caused by Napalm

NC1110133291 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, Oct 11 (AFP)—At least five people injured in bombing raids on Kurdish villages in northern Iraq by Turkish warplanes were hospitalized here on Friday.

Eye-witnesses told AFP at a hospital here that their injuries had been caused by napalm.

They said five villages had been struck in the attacks—Banik, (Chilan), (Siar), (Suri), and (Begova).

Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz announced in Ankara that eight Turkish warplanes bombed positions in northern Iraq Friday of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a separatist group which has been fighting the Ankara regime.

The prime minister said he gave the go-ahead for the raid late Thursday.

POW's Fear Saddam Upon Their Return Home

NC1010143591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Thousands of the defeated tyrant's soldiers surrendered to Kurdish fighters during the recent fighting in al-Sulaymaniyah. REUTER interviewed scores of POW's who are being held by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Many of the POW's want to return to their families but fear what the defeated tyrant might do to them.

One of the POW's said: You must tell the world of our plight, or else we may disappear on our return.

The POW's will be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in keeping with the Geneva Convention.

Sources on North Korean Ship, Syrian Scud Deal

TA1110101091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Washington-based HADASHOT service, Alex Fishman, and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration is afraid that Israel will seek to engage the North Korean ship carrying a new assignment of Scud missiles for Syria or will hit it from the air. This was reported yesterday by THE WASHINGTON TIMES, citing administration officials. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources told HADASHOT yesterday that Israel is aware of the presence of the North Korean ship in the region. The sources stressed that Israel is determined not to accept the Syrian-North Korean Scud deal with equanimity. The sources denied, however, any U.S. pressure on Israel to refrain from acting against the ship.

Shamir on Conference, U.S. Ties, Sharon

TA1110101191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shim'on Schiffer; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Schiffer] Will you insist that the United States give us a memorandum of understanding as a precondition for Israel's participation in the peace conference?

[Shamir] I have never attributed special significance to it; it may be a memorandum of understanding or a letter of assurances. The main thing is the content of the assurances that Israel will be given. In general, there is no need to exaggerate the definitive value of the discussions with Baker because, after all, the negotiations will be held with the Arabs, not the United States. The United States will not be the decisive party in the negotiations. It will have to play the role of intermediary, of the party that should bring the sides' stands closer together. The main thing is the positions of the parties.

[Schiffer] If you do not reach an agreement next week with Baker concerning the document of assurances, will Israel nonetheless participate in the peace conference?

[Shamir] This will depend on the issues that will remain in dispute. There are things upon which we must insist—things related to the conference itself, its guidelines and method of operation. We will have to determine what is more and less important and then weigh the balance.

[Schiffer] Shamir does not attribute great importance to the question of who will head the Israeli delegation to the opening conference. After all, the representative will make one speech, after which direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arabs and the Palestinians will be launched. Shamir confirmed that USSR Foreign Minister Pankin will come to Israel on 21 October and that "he must bring about the reestablishment of full diplomatic ties between Israel and the USSR, because this is a precondition for the opening of the conference," the prime minister stressed.

The United States expressed its concern over the overflights Israeli Air Force planes carried out on a reconnaissance mission in Iraqi airspace. The White House expressed its concern that this might hurt the peace process. What do you say to that?

[Shamir] It has nothing to do with the peace process. I fail to see the connection. This is a security-related act, and it has no repercussions for the peace process. The fact is that we did not hear a word about it from Arab countries.

[Schiffer] Are you disappointed with the U.S. reaction?

[Shamir] I certainly am.

[Schiffer] Will Israel continue doing what it believes should be done to protect its security, including flights over Iraq?

[Shamir] For the sake of its security, Israel will do everything that is needed, as it understands it. I cannot say that we will outright ignore U.S. demands and wishes, but the determining factor in such cases will be Israel's security.

[Schiffer] There are an increasing number of reports that the Bush administration wants to cut Israel down to size, hurt its strength, return it to the borders of 1967, and damage its nuclear capability. Do you share these assessments?

[Shamir] I do not believe that it is my position to reply to this today, when we are in the midst of a joint operation toward a historic event in the Middle East. In fact, my thoughts are mainly devoted to this process, its risks and chances. Naturally, I follow everything that is said and done in the United States, but I believe that the time has not yet come to jeopardize our relations. I see no use for that.

[Schiffer] Thinking back, were you correct when you encouraged Israel's friends in Congress to file the request for the guarantees?

[Shamir] I did not encourage them. I made my decision along with many others who were involved in this. I believe we were right. We had no reason to act differently. [passage omitted]

[Schiffer] Minister Ari'el Sharon announced that he is going to run against you for the premiership. Does this bother you?

[Shamir] No. Anyone may run for any position. This is for the voters to decide. This does not bother me.

[Schiffer] Did you know in advance of the intention to settle in Silwan, and what did you do from the time you were made aware of this?

[Shamir] I did not know about it in advance. There were various rumors. I believe that the manner in which it was done was inappropriate. It was pointless and tasteless. I do not understand the purpose of this whole operation, which was an unnecessary fiasco. The minute I learned about it, I asked that it be ascertained whether everything was being done in accordance with the law and that riots be prevented.

[Schiffer] Do you believe that in this act, Minister Sharon sought to torpedo the negotiations?

[Shamir] I do not know what went through the minds of the people involved in this act. At the same time, whoever thought that things like this could torpedo the political process was absolutely mistaken. This cannot torpedo or even slightly endanger the developments in the region.

Shamir on U.S. Rebuke; Aide on Interview

TA1110105591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 GMT 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning that it is paradoxical that Iraq should file complaints about Israeli Air Force planes flying through its airspace and that the United States should rebuke us for this. We will do our duty; what counts is our needs and our wish to act in accordance with them. The prime minister was speaking to reporters following his address to the United Jewish Appeal conference. [passage omitted]

Shamir expressed his hope that after Secretary Baker ends his tour of the Arab capitals, all the obstacles on the road to the conference will have been removed and direct negotiations for peace will start soon. At the same time, he stressed that many problems still need to be resolved.

Mr. Shamir was asked whether Israel will have to settle for a U.S. document that will not meet its expectations. He replied that it should be assumed that this will be the case. He noted, however, that the government is doing all it can to obtain a document that will answer all our needs.

He also said that the settlement in the City of David was unnecessary and not only because of its proximity to the Baker visit.

Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, denied newspaper reports citing the prime minister as having said that the time has not yet come to jeopardize [lesaken] our relations with the United States. The adviser made it clear to our political correspondent Arye Golan that the prime minister said that he follows what is being said in the United States, but he believes that the time to sum up [lesakem] our relations with it has not yet come because, for the time being, such a preliminary accounting would not be of much use.

Will Not Go to Talks 'Blindly'

TA1110082091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that it is hard to accept the fact that while preparations for the peace conference are under way, Syria is continuing to arm itself. This does not attest to a true desire for peace.

Appearing before the United Jewish Appeal in Jerusalem, the prime minister said that Israel will not take risks and will not come to the peace conference blindly. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that, in reply to a question, Mr. Shamir rejected the claim made by Egypt's President Mubarak that Israel is presenting preconditions for the peace conference.

Principles for Accepting Letter From Baker Cited

TA1110063191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] If Baker comes here on Wednesday with an acceptable letter of assurances, we will not reject it, political sources in Jerusalem said this morning. They are waiting for a new draft of the letter of assurances, expected in Israel before Baker arrives. If the new draft includes several basic principles Israel is demanding, it will be favorably accepted here.

Among other things, what is needed is an approved reaffirmation of the validity of President Ford's letter promising that Israel's security needs on the Golan Heights will be taken into account, and a U.S. agreement that there are several interpretations of UN Resolution 242, including the Israeli version that it does not mean withdrawal in all sectors. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 11 October adds that the letter must also include the principle that "the aim of the peace conference is to reach peace treaties with Israel's Arab neighbors."]

In previous discussions, Baker made it clear to his Israeli interlocutors that he recognizes the fact that there is more than one interpretation of Resolution 242.

If indeed the issue of the letter of assurances is resolved, Baker will be left with the last obstacle to overcome on the road to the conference: the Palestinian representation. Jerusalem does not know the names the Palestinian representatives brought with them to Washington. One of the possibilities is that they presented a list of five representatives: Sari Nusaybah, a Jerusalemite registered in the village of al-'Azariyah near Jerusalem; Sa'id 'Urayqat, a Bi'r Zayt University professor; Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, also from al- 'Azariyah; Hani 'Abd-al-Hadi, an economist by profession; and Zakariyah al-Agha from Gaza, who is currently in Washington with the Palestinian delegation. Another possibility is that al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and the others presented Baker with a 20-name bank from which the representatives will be chosen.

It is clear in Jerusalem that Baker is betting all his chips and that next week he will make every effort to see the peace conference convene in October.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 October carries a similar report by political correspondent Natan Gutman, adding that "although officially Israeli Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval is continuing his meetings with State Department officials on the letter of assurances, in fact there is no real progress. Israel believes that all the issues still in dispute will be resolved during Baker's visit to the region. Israel also expects that toward the end of the secretary's tour—meaning, while in Israel—Baker will hand the parties the invitations to the conference. This will be followed by a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin and the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR."]

U.S. Assurances to Palestinians Reported

TA1110070091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] The peace process will be based on Security Council Resolution 242, which means "territories for peace." It "provides an opportunity to end the Israeli occupation." These statements are included in the draft letter of assurances which the United States is offering the Palestinians.

The U.S. letter further promises that the Palestinians alone will elect their representatives to the negotiations and that their selection "will be subject to no one's veto." The Palestinians themselves will announce the composition of their delegation, and they have the right "to deliver a statement" at the conference that will launch the peace process.

In its letter of assurances, the United States points out that the process aims to secure "the Palestinians' legitimate political rights" within the framework of "give-and-take negotiations." The Palestinians, says the letter, "must have control over decisionmaking regarding their fate, including economic decisions."

Western sources in Israel, who yesterday reported the contents of the proposed U.S. letter, believe that its publication will cause the government considerable embarrassment. They noted, however, that the Palestinians themselves have not as yet consented to the proposed formulation. Their principal reservations are a request that the letter include U.S. recognition of their right to self-determination, as well as their continued demand for the inclusion of a representative of East Jerusalem from the outset of the talks.

The Americans affirm that, in their opinion, Palestinians from outside the territories and residents of East Jerusalem "should be able" to participate in the second stage of talks. The letter further states that East Jerusalem residents will have the right to participate in elections to the autonomy institutions and that no action to be taken "will affect the Palestinians' demand regarding East Jerusalem." The letter adds that although the United States believes Jerusalem should not be redivided, its final status will be determined in negotiations.

The negotiations for an interim arrangement are designed "to break down the barriers of skepticism and mistrust" between the parties. This chapter contains several harsh statements which are certain to displease Israel. It says, among other things, that the negotiations for the interim arrangements aim to enable "an orderly and peaceful transfer" of rule from Israel to the Palestinians. It further states that "as soon as possible," the Palestinians should assume control over the adopting of political and economic decisions affecting their needs and adapt "to the new situation in which they administer the West Bank and Gaza Strip." The letter states that autonomy will last five years and that negotiations for a permanent arrangement will start no later than the beginning of the third year. The Americans promise to make an effort to ensure that the negotiations on the interim stage will be concluded within one year.

The letter further stipulates that the Palestinians will be able to raise any issue in the course of negotiations, as well as appeal any outcome achieved there. The permanent arrangement, says the letter, will be determined by an agreement to be achieved by the sides, "although the establishment of a confederation should not be ruled out." [passage omitted]

The U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians further states that there will be no linkage [previous word in English] between the various bilateral negotiations; that these negotiations will begin two days after the peace conference; and that two weeks later, the bilateral negotiations will be launched. [sentence as published] The United States, says the letter, does not intend to enable the Security Council to discuss issues which are in the process of negotiation.

Palestinians participating in the delegation have to agree to a two-track approach and a phased solution and must be ready to live in coexistence with Israel. The letter includes a formulation identical to the one given to Israel, according to which no side will be forced to sit with any party with which it cannot sit.

The letter adds that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is the best framework for negotiations and that the delegation's Jordanian component can include "a Palestinian who is a Jordanian resident and comes from a well-known Jerusalem family."

Shamir, Levi Confer Prior to Baker Visit

TA1010190391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening met in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister David Levi to assess

the political situation in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival in Israel next Wednesday.

Informed sources told our political correspondent Shlomo Ganor that Israel is insisting on its position of obtaining a memorandum of understanding from the United States regarding the progress of the work of the peace conference and that should the U.S. Administration refuse to comply with this request, the Israeli side will make do with a letter of assurances to safeguard the interests of Israel.

The sources noted that Israel's stance toward the Palestinian side in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the negotiations is well known. They expressed the hope that Israel will not be forced to oppose the participation of Palestinian figures whose participation contradicts the conditions set by Israel.

Our correspondent adds that the prevailing belief is that the U.S. secretary of state will deliver the invitations to the peace conference to the parties next Thursday after concluding his talks in Israel and the other Arab states.

Magen Says U.S. 'No Longer an Honest Broker'

TA1010204691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi, who returned last night from the United States following a visit of two and a half weeks, conferred this evening with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The two men discussed, among other things, the crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations in anticipation of the imminent peace conference and tried to reach a joint position prior to the meetings with Secretary of State James Baker next week. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik gives an update from the studio:

[passage omitted] Cabinet ministers are growing more and more agitated. Some of them have leveled criticism—though only off-the-record—at Shamir and Levi, for the nearly complete absence of an Israeli information campaign in the United States, which leaves the U.S. Administration uncontested vis-a-vis Israel.

Minister David Magen, a confidant of the prime minister, declared today at a Likud meeting that the United States is no longer an honest broker and that it is trying in every way possible to weaken the Israeli Government by blatantly applying pressure. Magen called on the Likud to hold early elections forthwith.

Arens: Iraqi Move Not To Be Taken Seriously

TA1110064791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Arens did not confirm or deny reports that the United States lodged a protest to Israel following Israel Air Force overflights in Iraqi airspace. Israel, Arens said, did not appeal to the Americans on this matter.

[Arens] We appealed to no one, and we do not take seriously a complaint from a country that has fired missiles at us.

[Menashe] The UN experts say that Iraq was developing a hydrogen bomb as well. Does this increase the threat to Israel?

[Arens] This certainly does not make things easier. Today it is clear to us that Iraq has been engaged in extensive work in the field of nonconventional weapons. It has probably even started hydrogen activity .

[Menashe] Do you believe there is a way to monitor the Iraqi nuclear plans indefinitely?

[Arens] I believe that if the proper determination is there, as expressed over the past few weeks by the United Nations and the United States, it is possible. The question is whether such determination can be sustained over an indefinite period of time.

[Menashe] Can Israel today know about the Iraqi launching sites?

[Arens] We had information about the sites during the Gulf war as well—not the precise location of the launchers, but we were familiar with the areas from which missiles were launched.

[Menashe] There was talk of additional sites.

[Arens] Yes, certainly there were additional sites, and it is possible that today we have better information.

[Menashe] Do you not fear that such aerial activity by Israel might sabotage the peace process?

[Arens] I believe that activity meant for the defense of the State of Israel and its citizens will not and cannot hurt the peace process.

Foreign Ministry Officials Hold Talks in Beijing

TA1010142491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem today confirmed that two Israeli officials visited Beijing and conferred with PRC diplomats. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem reported that Moshe Yegar, deputy director general for African, Asia, and Oceania; and David Afeq, head of the Political Research Department, briefed their interlocutors of the political process in our region.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes that the discussions of Israel's representatives in Beijing were agreed upon when Foreign Minister David Levi met his

PRC counterpart in New York. The PRC this morning confirmed the fact that Israeli officials held meetings in the PRC.

Consulate Inaugurated in Berlin

TA1010205291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The Israeli flag was flown today for the first time in Berlin when the Israeli Consulate in that city was inaugurated. The new consulate will deal with information and will represent Israel in countries that had previously been included in East Germany. [sentence as heard]

One of the first problems with which the Israeli Consulate in Berlin will have to contend is the growing signs of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Germany. [passage omitted]

Court Rules for Settlers in Silwan Case

TA1010155491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 oct 91

[Text] Ya'aqov Tzaban, a Jerusalem District Court Judge, this morning canceled the interim order he issued last night banning the settlers of the El'ad Association from taking possession of Ma'ayan House in Silwan.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the order was issued last night upon the request of the al-'Abbasi family, who claimed they own the house. Today, however, El'ad members managed to prove that the affidavit the family presented was not true. The judge therefore canceled the order and stipulated that the situation is to remain as it was before the interim order was issued.

Shamir Views Limits of Silwan Ruling

TA1010195691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] It was reported from the attorney general's office that the ruling on Silwan will be determined not only in accordance with the settlers' title to the buildings, but also in accordance with security considerations. Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that Attorney General Harish will, among other things, look into the question of whether it would be correct to establish a Jewish enclave in the heart of a neighborhood which is Arab in character, in view of the High Court of Justice's ruling on the matter and in light of the related security and political sensitivities. Mr. Harish will also review the legal aspects of the four Knesset members' stay in Meyuhas House. The process of collecting the material pertinent to Silwan will last several days, and the attorney general will require some time to review the issue and will have to consult with the relevant bodies.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik learned this evening that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir informed Minister Yuval Ne'eman that the attorney general's ruling on the settlement in Silwan will deal only with the legal aspect, whereas the security aspect will be discussed by the bodies in charge of the matter. This was the prime minister's response to Minister Ne'eman's protest over the attorney general's announcement that he plans to deal with the security aspects relating to the Silwan settlement as well. [Later in the newscast it is reported that Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen slipped during her stay at the house and was hospitalized; she is feared to have broken a foot.]

Official Denies Settlement Activity Near Hebron

TA1010125891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[By Udi Segal]

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Hayim Oron of MAPAM [United Workers Party] and 'Oded Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement sent an urgent message to the prime minister this morning calling on him to stop the activity aimed at setting up a new settlement, Manoah, south of Hebron. The MK's claim that several days ago, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, stationed on Mount Manoah for several years, was evacuated. According to them, four mobile homes were placed there last night. The two could not say whether the homes were inhabited. The two MK's maintain that the purpose of this new settlement is obvious: If Gush Emunim has served as a tool in the hands of the government so far, it now seems that the government is carrying out the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Council decision to welcome Secretary Baker with provocative acts.

Council head Uri Ari'el said in response: This is all nonsense; there are no mobile homes on the site, and there is no new settlement.

Two Die, 11 Hurt as Arab Driver Hits Soldiers

TA1110111791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] A resident of Qibya village in Samaria ran over a group of soldiers this morning, killing two and injuring 11. The families have been notified. When caught, the driver said that he had run them over deliberately.

Eight of the wounded soldiers have been hospitalized in Tel Hashomer Hospital; three are in serious condition, two were injured moderately, and three are suffering slight wounds. Another three soldiers with slight wounds have been taken to Beilinson Hospital.

The attack took place this morning at around 0630 [0430 GMT] at the Tel Hashomer junction. The driver of a medium-sized truck, which was stolen from the Bezeq Company, sped through a red light at the junction and deliberately rammed into a group of soldiers standing at

a bus stop. After hitting the soldiers, the car overturned, and the driver got out and tried to flee. People at the scene apprehended him.

Shamir Comments; on Korean Ship

TA1110121991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says this morning's incident at Tel Hashomer was another terrible act of terrorists, and Israel will react accordingly. Shamir was speaking to our reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The prime minister had just addressed a Joint Israel Appeal mission from Great Britain and Ireland about immigration and the peace process. Later he conceded in a conversation with us reporters that Israel would have to make do with less than the guarantees which it had demanded from the United States with respect to the peace process. Nevertheless, Shamir had a warning for Secretary of State Baker:

[Shamir] The Jewish people is dedicated to peace, and it has labored and sacrificed for it, but we cannot go into any process blindly and will not take risks that could endanger our security and the safety of our people.

[Katzenell] The prime minister said Syria's reported refusal to attend that part of the peace conference dealing with regional problems did not indicate a genuine desire for peace.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 11 October carries a similar report by Tziyon Nanus, adding that "the prime minister said that the reports that Syria will not take part in the conference if it does not get the Golan Heights indicate that there still are difficulties and doubts on the road to the conference. Shamir stressed that such a Syrian demand is unacceptable to us, but at the moment we do not know whether they really did present such a demand. We may hear clarifications about this issue when Baker arrives next week. The prime minister added that he does not know whether we will be given an invitation to the conference during the U.S. secretary of state's visit here." The report also adds that "Shamir believes that in its approach to us following the flights over Iraq, the United States did not send us a warning."]

I asked him about the report that a shipload of North Korean Scud missiles was on its way to Syria.

[Shamir] I don't know the details about it, but well, I listened to this, I heard this news in the media, but I don't know any details about it.

[Katzenell] Israel might try to prevent the arrival of these missiles?

[Shamir] Well, I cannot say anything about an information that I don't know the details of it.

[Katzenell] Do you have any comment on this morning's terrorist attack at Tel Hashomer?

[Shamir] Well, it is one other terrible deed of terrorists, and we will react accordingly. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ne'eman on Oil, Nuclear Projects With USSR

TA1110074091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Report by economic correspondent Gil Tamari]

[Excerpt] The Russians are coming. Yuriy Korsun, acting USSR minister of energy and electrification [name, title as heard], will build a factory to manufacture prefab houses in Israel. Korsun, currently in Israel, has hundreds of professional teams that have built nuclear plants and power stations in the Soviet Union. These people are currently out of work and will be sent to Israel.

Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, notes a series of Soviet offers to Israeli investors to drill for oil in the USSR:

[Begin Ne'eman recording] The Soviets made two large-scale offers to Israeli companies to drill for oil at two sites in the USSR. One is a productive site, where we need only buy the drilling rights for this oil field and extract the oil from it in more modern and efficient methods. The other site is a tired field, I would say, meaning that a lot of oil has been pumped out of there already, but there is a good chance to recover it through advanced methods, which the Soviets generally did not employ. [end recording]

At the same time, the Energy Ministry is continuing to examine the option of purchasing a Soviet nuclear plant for the production of electricity. [passage omitted]

Moda'i, Frankel Leave for IMF Meeting

TA1010140591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frankel left this morning for Thailand where they will attend the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund. They are scheduled to spend two weeks in Bangkok with other Finance Ministry officials. This effectively leaves no one in Israel to take a decision on devaluing the shekel, although theoretically it can be orchestrated from Thailand. [passage omitted]

Government Bans Islamic Movement's Public Rally

JN1010073091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Salamah Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's government, widely criticised for being "soft" on dealing with parliamentary opposition, Wednesday toughened its stand against attempts by the Islamic movement to weaken its resolve to participate in the proposed Middle East peace negotiations.

Official sources said the government decided to ban a public rally the Islamic Movement planned to organise Friday, a day after His Majesty King Husayn was scheduled to deliver a major speech to a national congress on the importance of Jordan's participation in the peace process. (The national congress was postponed until Saturday due to a minor health problem the King suffered yesterday).

The government also banned the distribution of AL-RIBAT, a weekly newspaper, of the movement which opposes Arab-Israeli peace talks.

A cabinet minister warned the Islamic movement against entering "a losing battle" with the government, saying there would be "no wavering on the government's commitment to safeguarding the rule of law and protecting higher national interests."

The government used its prerogative not to license the public rally which was timed to come a day after the King's speech to the national congress, the minister said.

"We have a law which says that such meetings need the approval of the Interior Ministry," the minister said. "The Brotherhood has not obtained this licence and as such they have got to abide by the law," he added.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which dominates the Islamic movement, appeared divided Wednesday over how to react to the government ban, with some movement leaders saying they would go ahead with plans to hold the rally and others saying no decision would be taken until clarifications are received from the government on the reasons behind the ban.

"The government is quite aware of our commitment to adhere to democratic methods of expression," a brotherhood deputy said. "Our public rally is a democratic method of expressing our opposition to the peace conference, and the government must not assume it would turn violent," he added.

Another Brotherhood leader said the movement was not officially informed of any ban and that it would go ahead with plans to organise the public rally, which he said may attract tens of thousands of people.

Official sources said the government was committed to democratic methods of dealing with the opposition. One source explained, however, that "democracy does not mean anarchy." He added that "democracies have teeth to protect higher national interests and the rule of law."

Observers said the government, although generally not opposed to public rallies organised by the Brotherhood or any other political movement, considered the timing of the rally, one day after the King's previously-scheduled speech, as clearly provocative.

One official source confirmed that the move to ban the rally "does not represent a decision by the government to seek a confrontation with the Brotherhood."

"Our commitment to democratisation is unquestionable," the source said. "But it does not mean we will sit back and watch while some political forces try to undermine our national security and stability in the name of democracy."

He said that the Islamic movement, "which is an international movement, must be aware that Jordan is the last remaining lung through which it can breathe. I am convinced that it will not act in such a way that it loses its space."

The official was apparently referring to the crackdown on the Islamic movement throughout most of the Arab World, including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Iraq and Egypt as well as in many non-Arab states.

The government's move came following a week of tension with the Muslim Brotherhood which organised a petition calling on the government to resign. The movement accuses the cabinet of succumbing to American-Israeli pressure to enter peace negotiations that are "aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and selling Palestine and Jerusalem."

The Lower House of Parliament's Constitution Bloc, a grouping of 18 traditionally pro-establishment figures, dismayed over their exclusion from a cabinet reshuffle last week, joined hands with the 23-member Brotherhood last Monday to call for the government's resignation.

Security Forces Reportedly on 'Maximum Alert'

JN1010135091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1104 GMT 10 Oct 91

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Excerpt] Jordanian security sources in Amman have stated that the Jordanian security forces have been put on maximum alert for fear of disturbances by extremist Islamic movements and Jordanian political parties opposed to Jordan's participation in a Middle East peace conference. The following is a report on the internal situation in Jordan in the wake of a decision by 49 deputies to withhold confidence in Tahir al-Masri's government:

In addition to putting the Jordanian security forces on maximum alert to confront any incident during the

coming weeks, the Jordanian Government has banned a meeting and confiscated two weeklies. Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, who lost the confidence of the majority in the Jordanian parliament, warned against any attempt to destabilize Jordan prior to the proposed peace talks. Jordanian officials said that a meeting scheduled for the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—tomorrow, Friday, has been cancelled as a precautionary measure. The competent authorities fear that the meeting might lead to disorder and violence. The Jordanian Government had earlier confiscated the latest issue of AL-RIBAT, mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood, for publishing an article demanding a referendum on whether or not Jordanians support the current peace efforts. The government also has confiscated the latest issue of the weekly AL-AHALI, a leftist publication.

It is noteworthy that six Palestinian movements have issued a statement in which they rejected the proposed peace conference. These include the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, the Islamic Jihad Movement, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] General Command, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the Fatah-uprising movement, and the Mujahid Islamic Trend [al-ittijah al-islami al-mujahid]. These movements, which reject the peace conference, said in a joint statement: Does the PLO leadership realize the magnitude of responsibility and the gravity of participation in such a conference? [passage omitted]

Israeli Overflights 'Threat' to Peace Process

JN1010105891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Israel at It Again"]

[Text] Coming as it does on the heels of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's hawkish and intransigent speech to the Israeli Knesset Monday, the overflying of Syrian, Iraqi, Jordanian and Saudi airspaces by Israeli warplanes Tuesday is nothing but a blunt and arrogant threat to the chances of establishing peace in the Middle East. This latest Israeli act of piracy appears aimed first and foremost at eroding and undermining the U.S.-led peace process in the region.

It is probably no coincidence that Shamir would send his jets across the airspaces of so many Arab countries for no clear military purpose or justification on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's eighth shuttle mission. It must have dawned on Washington that every trip Mr. Baker made to the area his visit was accompanied or proceded by an Israeli attempt to heighten tension and smother growing Arab interest in his peace efforts. Seen against this backdrop, the latest Israeli act of defiance must have targetted Arab sentiments as well, with a view to turning them negative and hostile to the idea and principle of Arab-Israeli peace. In this sense, the mission of the Israeli aircraft corresponds quite well with all interests and objectives of extremists on both sides of the fence who have developed a vested interest in the status quo and the absence of hope for just and durable peace and stability. As a matter of fact, Israeli foreign policy planners have always played into the hands of factions and forces who find in such Israeli policies and practices excuses and justifications for rejecting overtures for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is little doubt therefore that Israeli acts of defiance aim to destabilise the forces of moderation in the Arab World and swell the ranks of those who espouse extremism.

In short, the Israeli warplanes that traversed the territorial airspace of Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia Tuesday have upped the ante and meant to weaken the forces of moderation in the Arab World, just as the words of Shamir to the Israeli parliament had attempted to do on Monday. By openly and vehemently condemning Israel's violation of Arab airspace, Washington has sent a clear signal that it aims to match Israel's efforts to sabotage its peace plans with equal determination to push ahead with them. Yet Shamir may be banking on President George Bush buckling under sooner or later under the pressure of Zionist lobbyists in the U.S. The minute the Bush administration's words of rebuke to Israel are translated into actions, then we in the Arab World will believe for once and all that at last the U.S. is willing and able to liberate itself from Israeli-Zionist dictates. The U.S.-led peace offensive is therefore the litmus test that will determine how far Washington has actually freed itself from Israeli manipulation.

King Husayn Said 'Enjoying Full Health'

JN1010122491 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The private doctor to his majesty the king, Dr. Samir Farraj, has said his majesty the king is enjoying full health and that he is resting for two days because of the flu.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY-PETRA, Dr. Farraj said his majesty's health today was much better than it was yesterday, and that his health in general is excellent. Dr. Farraj added that he hoped his majesty the king will recover completely in the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, his majesty the king today expressed appreciation for Jordanian citizens for their get-well wishes to recover from the flu. In a telephone conversation conducted by Radio Jordan in the morning, his majesty said he was looking forward to meet them through the national congress which was postponed until Saturday due to doctor's advice for his majesty to take rest.

Later today, His Majesty King Husayn received a phone call from Palestinian president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. The Palestinian leader inquired about his majesty's health and wished him speedy recovery. His majesty the king thanked Mr. 'Arafat and wished him and the Palestinian people every success.

UN Ruling on Actions in UNIFIL Area Viewed

NC1010122691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The cabinet yesterday faced what can be seen as a new sudden obstacle represented by the UN's rejection of the Lebanese Army's deployment in UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] areas. It is known, and has often been stated by official circles, that the presidential delegation obtained UN approval to deploy the Army in these areas during its visit to New York. This new development raises new questions about the real results achieved from the New York trip. [passage omitted]

Press sources have cited most of the ministers who participated in yesterday's cabinet meeting as saying that the decision is a serious stand, especially because during its talks with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the presidential delegation obtained UN approval to deploy the Lebanese Army in UNIFIL areas in the south.

Sources say that the ministers see this development as an indication that the United Nations has no intention of pushing for the implementation of Resolution 425 or even of preparing the circumstances for its implementation. The sources added that the cabinet decided to contact New York to learn more about the UN decision. The cabinet discussed the security situation in the south and authorized the foreign minister to hold the necessary contacts with the United States and the United Nations to halt Israeli practices there. [passage omitted].

UN Position Causes 'Surprise'

NC1010162891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's rejection of Lebanese Army deployment in the UNIFIL area came as a surprise to Lebanese officials.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said that Perez de Cuellar promised the Lebanese delegation in New York that he would allow the Lebanese Army to enter the UNIFIL deployment area, but Lebanon was notified today of the United Nation's desire to postpone that measure. Karami added that the government has instructed the Lebanese UN delegate to follow up on this matter.

Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, said: I am surprised by this new development, because Perez de Cuellar and his aides have agreed with us on the Army's deployment in the UNIFIL area. Such deployment, al-Husayni added, would be in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426.

UNIFIL Official Comments

NC1110063491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, UNIFIL spokesman, commented on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's message rejecting the Lebanese Army's deployment in UNIFIL areas in south Lebanon, saying that a lot of misunderstanding about the UN position is circulating. He said that the UN position on this issue has not changed since March.

Buwayz Contacts UN Envoy

NC1110064491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's rejection of the Lebanese Army's deployment in UNIFIL areas of operations has drawn wide-scale reactions and raised many questions.

Upon receiving the telegram spelling out the UN secretary general's position, Lebanese diplomacy embarked on various moves and ranking officials held intensive contacts on current developments and the situation in the South.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz contacted Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nation, and asked him to contact UN officials regarding the UN secretary general's decision. Ambassador Makkawi was also asked to brief the UN Security Council on the Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty, Israel's repeated attacks on southern towns and villages, and Lebanon's right to lodge a complaint and call a Security Council meeting if need be.

Israeli 'Military Buildup,' Operations Reported

NC1010161691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The situation in the south is still the focus of much attention in the light of the continued Israeli attacks and military buildup. According to reports by Radio Amman and the Voice of America, the Israeli forces have massed large numbers of vehicles, tanks, and troops all along the borders with Lebanon as well as in the border strip.

The occupation forces were engaged in intensive military moves during the past 24 hours. A force composed of approximately 10 vehicles was seen entering the Lebanese territories via al-Mtullah and heading toward al-'Ayshiyah. Another force of about 12 vehicles was seen moving on Marj 'Uyun-al-Hasbani road.

Israeli gunboats fired on al-Sarafand harbor last night, hitting a number of fishing boats that were docked there and causing damage to a number of seaside orchards. Other Israeli gunboats patrolled the stretch between Sidon and al-Naqurah. The Israeli radio mentioned that gunboats fired on an unidentified boat off al-Sarafand coast.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters overflew the eastern sector for 30 minutes last night and fired rounds of illumination flares. At 0900, the Israeli helicopters overflew al-'Urqub and the eastern slopes of Mount Hermon.

Karami Supports Resistance as Action Intensifies

NC1110065291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Reports from the South indicate that Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] have intensified their movements and patrols inside the security zone, and they have sent out patrols to Jazzin area. A delegation of senior Israeli Army officers made up of northern area Commander Yitrzhaq Mordakhai, liaison unit Commander Mikha Tamir, and officers from the northern area inspected Hasbayya for the second time in less than two days.

In other news, Israeli forces sank a boat piloted by resistance men off al-Sarafand in Lebanese territorial waters. No group has claimed responsibility for the resistance boat.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami commented on the resistance, saying: We support the resistance despite the embarrassment it causes us before the world public. He noted that resistance operations should not take place near homes and that the resistance should not try to charge protection fees.

Israeli Officer Shot, Seriously Wounded

NC1110065691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] An Israeli occupation army officer was seriously wounded when he came under bursts of gunfire as he and three of his aides were riding in a car on the western approach to the town of Hasbayya.

Immediately afterward, an Israeli force arrived at the scene of the incident and transported the wounded officer to Marj 'Uyun hospital and then to the occupied territories. The Israeli forces then set up roadblocks and searched cars. They also launched patrols.

Resistance Claims Attack on Lahd Vehicle

NC1110075291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has claimed that the Martyr 'Ali Yasin group detonated an explosive device as a Lahd militia vehicle was traveling on a road west of 'Aramtha at noon yesterday. According to a statement issued by the resistance, the vehicle was destroyed and all the occupants were killed or wounded. In other news, occupation forces and Lahd's militia shelled the towns of 'Ayta al-Jabal and Haddathah from their gun emplacements in the occupied strip yesterday evening.

Hizballah Statement on Anti-Israeli Operations

NC0910074291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The martyr Muhammad al-Hurr and martyr Muhammad al-Hurshi groups of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive device under a military carrier of the Zionist enemy on the al-Rummanah-al-Safi road yesterday, damaging it and killing or wounding all its occupants. The enemy brought in reinforcements to the area but the Islamic Resistance fighters detonated another explosive device, damaging a vehicle and killing or wounding its occupants.

The Islamic resistance issued the following statement on the operation: Stubbornly pursuing its line of struggle, the Islamic Resistance vows to remain a sword hanging over the heads of the usurping enemy and its agents. It will not allow the enemy to feel safe and secure for one second as long as our land is usurped and occupied, our water is stolen, and our villages are subjected to bombardment, sniper fire, and blockades every day.

We will liberate our land, making the greatest sacrifices to achieve this goal. The Islamic Resistance reaffirms its permanent pledge to its martyrs and nation to continue this course until it expels the Zionist enemy and its agents from our country.

Iraqi Envoy Protests Israeli Airspace Violations

NC1010123791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met with Iraqi Embassy Charge D'affaires Sharif 'Awad at Butrus Palace today. 'Awad declared that Iraq is not concerned with the scheduled peace conference. He added that Iraq will declare its stand on any bilateral negotiations with Israel.

'Awad said that Iraq had protested aircraft violating Syrian, Saudi, and Iraqi airspace to the UN secretary general, and indicated that the Iraqi leadership will take other steps in response to this violation which will be discussed by the Arab League.

Afghanistan

Rebel Leader Sayyaf Rejects UN Invitation

BK1010131491 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 10 Oct 91 p III

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Peshawar—The AIG [Afghan Interim Government] Prime Minister Prof. 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf while rejecting the latest invitation of the UN Secretary General for hosting peace moot, has asked Afghan exiles in the West to support the Mojahedin.

In an official statement circulated by AL-BUNYAN news service on Wednesday [9 October] Prof. Sayyaf said: "The latest invitation of Mr. Perez de Cuellar stands rejected. We would like to reemphasize again that only the Afghan Mojahedin and their leaders have the right to take any decision, on the future Interim administration of Afghanistan." "We continue to stick to our previous principled stance and we will not go to Geneva or any where else for talks with the discredited Communists. He further said that. "The Question of sitting around negotiating table with the Communists does not arise, since it might provide them an opportunity to restore their lost prestige and to cover up their past crimes and misdeeds.

Similarly, those who spent their lives in the safety of Western joys and pleasures, saved their families and lived far away from the battlefields of the country, today claim to have right to taken part in the decision making of Afghanistan. It's something strange indeed. "When our country was burning why these people kept silent?"

Prof. Sayyaf questioned that why they could not claim participation in the major battles of Qandahar, Lowgar, Badakhshan, Jalalabad and now Gardeyz? They have lost their right to have a share in the future of Afghanistan because rights also demand certain obligations."

They (Mojahedin) were the people who fought for the honour and dignity of their country and offered every sacrifices.

He said that I urge Mr. de Cuellar to respect the wishes of freedom-loving Afghan Mojahedin, instead of backing the unrealistic proposals of the Kabul regime every time. As a matter of fact supporting such suggestions means supporting aggression and tyranny of the Communists.

Foreign Ministry Assails Pakistani Interference

LD1010213491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Because extended diplomatic efforts are under way at the international level in support of the five-point statement by the UN secretary general and the joint U.S.-Soviet statement on a political solution of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan—and this has opened new windows of hope for the restoration of peace in the country—the recent measures by the Pakistani Government show that they, on the basis of their two-faced policy masquerading as political and peace-seeking efforts, have not yet given up the military solution to the issues in our country. They actually continue their interventionist assistance to the armed Afghan extremist groups based in the territory of Pakistan, so that they continue their attacks and invasion of the border cities of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Following the two-faced policy, the Government of Pakistan does not only continue, as before, to arm, finance, organize, dispatch, and encourage the armed extremist groups—and they have not yet given up the belief in the futile military solution—they have recently openly admitted to these actions and behaviors. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, for example, in expressing pleasure about the bloodshed in Paktia Province, has said:

The self-sacrifice and pain of the Afghans is about to produce a result. The Afghan resistance forces have now launched an attack aimed at capturing the strategic city of Gardeyz, or the gateway to Kabul.

Such utterances, in the framework of the two-faced policy of the Government of Pakistan, clearly prove that they do not have any faith in a political solution to the issues and they do not attach any kind of value to the UN efforts and initiatives, or the joint U.S.-Soviet statement. It is interesting that Shaharyar Khan, minister of state for foreign affairs of Pakistan, recently said that Pakistan does not regard itself bound by the agreement on delivery or non-delivery of weapons to the mojahedin or by the U.S.-Soviet statement.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan recently said a similar thing in this regard during an [word indistinct]. These are the best examples proving the carelessness and irresponsibility of the military authorities of Pakistan regarding the norms, standards, and resolutions by the international society concerning Afghanistan; and establishing the fact that the armed Afghan extremists, being encouraged and provoked by the Pakistani militarists, are the main cause of fighting and killing in the region. It is because of this provocation that the extremists do not abandon the killing of innocent Afghans and yet again continue the war and destruction in our country.

Strongly denouncing the irresponsible and warmongering measures and utterances by the Pakistani authorities, once again we say that all these strivings are doomed to failure, and as a neighboring country we ask Pakistan to give up interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan in conformity with the five-point statement by the UN secretary general, joint Soviet-U.S. statement, and the efforts by the international community for the political solution of the situation in the Republic of

Afghanistan. We ask Pakistan to take constructive and earnest steps for the restoration of peace in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan and in the region. Otherwise, the responsibility for the unpleasant consequences of intervention and provocation by the Pakistani authorities, causing the continuation of war and bloodshed in our territory, will rest on the authorities of this country.

Najibollah Praises Soldiers Injured in Attack

LD1010214891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the country, went this afternoon to the hospital of the Academy of Medical Science of the Armed Forces [military hospital in Kabul] and visited those soldiers, NCO's, and officers who have been injured during the selfless defense of Gardeyz city against the attacks by the extremists and Pakistani militarists.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that at the hospital entrance, Esteemed Najibollah was welcomed by General Mohammad Nabi Azemi, first deputy defense minister and general commander of Kabul Garrison, and the leadership of the Academy of Medical Science of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibollah said in his conversations with the patients: You are the honest sons of the country. When the extremists attacked Gardeyz city with the direct support of tanks and artillery of Pakistani militarists and Arab mercenaries, you fought, relying on God, against the aggressors with firmness and bravery, and with love for the homeland and people and the sacred aspiration of peace. You defended the homeland and people and created epics.

Esteemed Najibollah added: The people will not forget those who sacrifice their lives for peace in the country. The people will remember, too, the actions of those who attack the homeland with the support of the foreigners, and fire missiles on the cities. The president added: I inform you that the extremists and their supporters have faced a heavy defeat in Gardeyz, and they themselves have confessed to their defeat.

The report adds that in the course of this visit, a number of soldiers and officers spoke on behalf of their other brothers in arms and expressed thanks for the constant attention of Esteemed Najibollah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, saying: We witnessed the tanks and artillery attacks on Gardeyz city, that were controlled and directed by the Pakistani militarists and Arab mercenaries. [passage omitted]

India

Sikh Kidnappers Seek Swap for Romanian Diplomat

BK1110075691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 11 (AFP)—Sikh separatists holding Romania's charge d'affaires Liviu Radu will exchange him for two of their men jailed after an attack on an Indian diplomat in Bucharest, a newspaper reported Friday.

The INDIAN EXPRESS quoted "highly placed official sources" as saying that the demand was conveyed by the Liberation Tigers Force of Khalistan (LTFK) by telephone to the Romanian Embassy here late Thursday. Police and Romanian diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

The EXPRESS said in a front-page report that the abductors wanted the release of Pargat Singh Bagga and Jaswinder Singh Bittu, two of four Sikhs who tried to gun down Indian Ambassador Julio Ribeiro in Bucharest August 20.

Romanian anti-terrorist police guarding Ribeiro, a former police chief in the Indian state of Punjab, killed one of the assailants and captured two. The fourth escaped.

Police Friday remained tightlipped about their search for Ladu, 55, after coming under severe condemnation from the media for the increasing number of kidnappings in the Indian capital.

"We are following some clues but we can't share it with the press," a police detective said.

Police had previously blamed the International Sikh Youth Federation for the Bucharest attack, but the newly-formed Liberation Tigers Force of Khalistan (LTFK) Thursday claimed responsibility for Radu's daring daylight abduction.

It is not known if the LTFK is linked to the Federation, which Indian police say has members living in London.

Two gunmen, including a Sikh, seized Radu in New Delhi's upper-class Jor Bagh district shortly after he left for work Wednesday morning.

The gunmen forced themselves into Radu's black limousine which the diplomat was driving when it halted near a barricade and drove away, with a white Indian car carrying at least two more Sikhs following. The meticulously-prepared operation was over within seconds.

The two cars were found nearby 24 hours later, but there has been no trace of Radu or his kidnappers despite a massive search operation by the police and intelligence agencies. [passage omitted]

Officials Deny Kidnappers Made Demands

BK1110091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The whereabouts of the Romanian diplomat Mr. Radu remain unknown, with the officials denying reports in a section of the press that the abductors have spelt out their demands. The Shiromani Guru Singh Sabha [Sikh organization] has appealed to the militants to release Mr. Radu immediately. A statement issued by the Sabha in New Delhi today asked the militants to stop harassing the innocents if they are true Sikhs. Meanwhile, Delhi Police has given 2,500 rupees reward to the driver who had first informed the police about the abandoned cars involved in the kidnapping.

Defense Minister on Pakistani 'Misadventure'

BK1110094891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The defense minister says the situation in Kashmir is likely to improve in six months because Pakistan's attempts to infiltrate terrorists in a large-scale has been frustrated. Returning from a three-day visit to Siachen along with the members of the consultative committee attached to his ministry, Mr. Sharad Pawar told newspersons on board an IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft that the government had deployed additional forces on the border as soon as it learned that about 4,500 trained militants were brought by Pakistan near the border to infiltrate them into the valley. He said in the last three months, Pakistan made two attempts to push them across, but both were thwarted and 91 militants trying to sneak in were killed. Mr. Pawar said the entire area will become snowbound in another 15 days making further infiltration impossible. He said the people of the valley are also fed up as they have to face enormous economic hardship because of terrorist activity.

The defense minister said Pakistan's misadventure in Siachen had put tremendous pressure on the armed forces of the two countries and both the governments are paying heavily in the area. Mr. Pawar hoped that the foreign secretary's visit to Islamabad will open a way to sort out all issues at political level.

On the question of one rank-one pension to ex-servicemen, Mr. Pawar said the committee constituted for this purpose has already met and the proposals are likely to be finalized much before the deadline of 31st of December committed by the government on the floor of parliament.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Comments on Israeli Violation

NC0910182591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement which says: According to received reports, the Zionist entity has violated the airspace of neighbor Iraq in a hostile action and also has violated the airspace of Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt.

The statement added: The reason for this aggression is the Islamic countries' weakness and divisions. The Zionist aggression should be confronted through a firm stand. The statement stressed the need for those panting for peace with the Zionist entity, which was established on aggression, to learn from this hostile action.

The statement stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in accordance with its immortal principles, warns the usurping Zionist entity against the consequences and outcome of its aggressive practices against the airspace of Islamic countries. It also stresses that such hostile actions increase the vigilance of Muslims in their endeavor to achieve Islamic goals and increase their unity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Gorbachev Message

LD0810202891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] President of the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan Mr. Niyazov, who arrived in Tehran today before noon at the head of a 60-member team, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. At this meeting Mr. Niyazov handed over a written message from Soviet President Gorbachev. He also offered the best wishes of himself and the people of Soviet Turkmenistan to the Iranian Government and nation.

He then said: We are neighbors of the Islamic Republic of Iran and we are ready to make every effort to expand our bilateral relations in all fields of mutual interest. Praising the principled and independent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to international and regional issues, he said: We attach a great deal of importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We expect to have expanded cooperation with Islamic Iran which is a great country with a long history.

Thanking Mr. Gorbachev for his kind message, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that the Islamic Republic is prepared to expand and deepen bilateral cooperation. He then added: One of the principles of our constitutional law is to give priority to cooperation with Muslim and neighboring countries. The Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan enjoys priority on both counts and, indeed, the economic interests of both countries, meanwhile, lies in such cooperation. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are interested in cooperating with you in all fields which are feasible. I hope we can achieve favorable agreements during the present visit.

Editorial on Need To Combat 'Cultural Weakness'

NC0810132491 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Sep 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Seyyed Morteza Nabavi: "Cultural Weakness"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the past year 1368-69 [year beginning 21 March 1990-91] more than 240 publications were granted licenses and 91 new periodicals have been published.

This quantitative proliferation of publications is indeed amazing and worth noting, but what about the quality? Perhaps it can be said that technical and artistic aspects have also been improved. What is the situation regarding the defense of "values and ideals acceptable to the revolutionary ummah?"

We should admit that in today's cultural issues we are weak and inefficient. Some of the new publications do not defend the ideals of the revolutionary Iranian ummah and they actually attack them by using caricatures, plans, stories, parodies, articles, pantomimes, films and various articles to attack the revolutionary values including the battlefront, martyrdom, the Basijis, the war, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Islamic apparel and so on. [passage omitted]

What has happened to our executive and cultural officials who are silent witnesses of this abhorrent spectacle? Should Salman Rushdie only be tackled in Britain and the idolatrous and atheistic Iranian Salman Rushdies of Iran remain free to spew venom from their pens and destroy the younger generation?! Does not our judiciary wish to assume any role in this full-fledged war against Islamic culture?

Has the time not come for the well-wishers of the revolution and cultural officials—despite the solicitous and heart-rending warnings of the leader—to realize the seriousness of the situation and to transform their mutual discord into unity under the aegis of Islam and the revolution? They should all unite and rise up in unison against this atheistic attitude, this faithlessness, the decadence and cultural onslaught of the West and provide support and succor to the soldiers of the revolution. We hope that with divine blessings and with the people's initiative, this reactive gesture against the cultural onslaught will transform into an extensive campaign against the corrupt cultural front of the West.

All of us should pause a while and indulge in some serious introspection to assess the concept of freedom and to ponder the fact that the decree to kill Rushdie is the decree for the salvation of "human freedom" from the fetters of lust, power and materialism. The decree to kill Rushdie is a decree for the annihilation of the decadent Western culture.

When the West and their protagonists and the idolatrous ones do not have mercy on our culture why should we advocate freedom for their pens, their speech, and their inartistic culture?

We should be vigilant that whatever impedes the path of the truth and reality, God and piety, is opposed to freedom and cannot be eliminated by mere preaching and leniency.

Daily on Need to Confront 'Cultural Offensive'

NC0810124991 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Sep 91 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Cultural Offensive: War Without Borders"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today the United States and the other satanic powers are completely disappointed with the use of military force to foil the Islamic revolution. This is why they have started an extensive cultural offensive against the revolution and our nation's aspirations. The danger of a cultural offensive is far greater than that of a military offensive because it is easy to discern a military offensive, the aspects of which are completely clear. Therefore everyone takes a military offensive seriously and mobilizes all capabilities to confront it. But a cultural offensive cannot be felt directly at first and should be recognized through certain signs from the enemies' activities.

Today such signs have started to emerge. It is evident that an extensive cultural offensive against the revolution and the nation's aspirations has started. Therefore, the essence of our discussion now is not that this offensive has started but what its objectives are.

Today the generation that saved the revolution and the country from the enemy's military offensive is the target of a cultural offensive by the nation's enemies. Today the generation that turned its chest into a shield against the bullets of arrogance is the target of the poisonous bullets of an extensive cultural war. Today arrogance is planning ways to subvert a generation that can save the revolution and the country from a possibly far more complicated offensive by arrogance in the future.

"The revolutionary power" of the children of the nation, the mobilization spirit of our brave men, and the pure soul- and life-inspiring thoughts that have introduced the tenets of Islam, which improves man, into society are being threatened. [passage omitted]

This is why we should take the "cultural offensive" that is being slyly perpetrated and has also been intensified up to a certain extent seriously. This is why we should start, first and foremost, to understand the facts clearly and make others understand them as well.

The revolution has the great capacity and the necessary attractive culture to emerge victoriously and proudly from this war too. The revolution and this nation with its culture and expertise should disappoint the enemies in

their attempt but on the condition that, first and foremost, borders are delineated for this "war without borders" because once we do this it will not be difficult for us to confront those who we know are our enemies.

Commentary Views Debate on Constitutional Article

NC0810142891 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Sep 91 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed commentary: "The Majles Deputies and the Defense of the Constitution"]

[Text] At yesterday's session of the Islamic Majles, the following statement was made: "Because some people consider the remarks of the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians on the interpretation of Article 99 as being in contradiction of the Constitution from a deductive reasoning and legal point of view, we request that the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran call a round table and invite two Majles deputies to speak to the council members to enable them to thrash out any differences or objections."

Response [not identified further]: The Council of Guardians' interpretation is in line with the norms of the Constitution and is the sole legal interpretation. All other interpretations of the Constitution have a bias without any legal credibility and cannot, therefore, be considered.

The legal interpretation of the Constitution, like the Constitution itself, has legal standing. Is it possible to call a round table and begin a controversy on whether we should accept the articles of the Constitution?

Can we even do this with ordinary laws? Can we say that we should have a round table to discuss whether the laws passed by the Majles should be accepted?

Article 67 of the Constitution says that the Majles deputies have to take an oath before the Holy Koran that they will defend the Constitution. Article 98 stipulates that the interpretation of the Constitution has been entrusted solely to the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians has also been entrusted the duty of safeguarding Islamic principles. The Constitution (in Article 91) and the Islamic Majles has no legal validity without the Council of Guardians (Article 93).

The Majles and the Council of Guardians are not on the same level to indulge in a debate. The very idea of such a verbal duel on whether the Constitution should be implemented is basically null and void.

Can a Majles deputy demand the implementation of an act which contradicts the Constitution? The opponents of the interpretation of Article 99 have continued to voice their opinions in articles and interviews on the subject ad nauseam? It is doubtful they have anything new to say.

In yesterday's Majles session it was also stated that his eminence the imam had said: The credentials of Rajavi, who is the leader of the hypocrites, should be rejected because he did not vote for the Constitution (footnote: Mas'ud Rajavi was nominated for president and only the imam rejected him saying that Rajavi had not voted for the Constitution)

One can say that this is an accepted article that the candidate for representation in the Majles should accept the Constitution and abide by all its articles.

Sri Lanka

No-Trust Motion Against Government Lapses

BK1010114491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] When parliament met yesterday, the deputy speaker, Gamini Fonseka, said that the speaker had informed him that he will not chair the proceedings till the conclusion of the no-confidence motion against him. Opposition groups on Tuesday handed over a notice of the motion of no-confidence against the speaker, M.H. Mohamed. Later, the deputy speaker asked the opposition to move the motion of no-confidence against the government, which was placed on the order paper as the main item under the name of the opposition leader, Srimavo Bandaranaike. Opposition Leader Srimavo Bandaranaike told parliament that she will not present a no-confidence motion against the government in parliament, as the proposal requesting for a date to discuss the motion has been rejected, and to give priority to the motion of no-confidence against the speaker.

The deputy speaker informed the members of parliament that the no-confidence motion against the government had lapsed.